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COUNTRY Rumania REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Soviet and Rumanian Troops in Timisoara and the Banat Border Area 25X1A

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

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REMARKS [REDACTED]

SOURCE

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[REDACTED]

1. In May 1951, a barracks installation was observed on the northern perimeter of Timisoara (R 16/T 91) at the junction of the arterial highways to Arad (R 16/U 16) and Sannicolau Mare (Y 7/T 55). Source frequently saw light and heavy tanks, as well as wheeled and armored reconnaissance cars, entering and leaving the installation. The road to Sannicolau Mare, south of the installation, was closed to traffic. Since the fall of 1949, the former Koenig Ferdinand Kasorne, northwest of Unirii Square, and two other barracks installations located east and west of it, have been occupied to capacity by Soviet units. The old Siebenbuerger Kasorne in the southeastern sector of the center of the city was torn down. According to statements made [REDACTED] in the fall of 1949, Soviet units were bivouacked in the Jagdwald Forest northeast of the city. *
2. In May 1951, the hitherto unoccupied town of Resenova Noua (R 16/T 82) was occupied by a Rumanian unit with an estimated strength of 300 men. [REDACTED] it was an artillery unit which moved there from Oradea Mare (R 48/P 65). The soldiers were billeted in the school and in private houses. Source estimated the average age of the soldiers at 20 to 22 years. They carried only short rifles. Two horse-drawn vehicles and one riding-horse, but no motor vehicles were observed with the troops. Every morning, the soldiers did construction work near Pecicherecul Mic. (R 16/T 82). Infantry training was occasionally observed.
3. In May 1951, the town of Pecicherecul Mic. was also occupied by a Rumanian Army unit of about 300 men, who were billeted in several farms and who worked on a building project directly east of the town. The building site, which was cordoned off by Rumanian soldiers, was in a pasture and covered an area of about two hectares. Before the construction work was started, nine huts, about 20 meters long, which apparently were used to store building materials etc. were built. Subsequently, deep excavations were made but no machinery was observed being used. Cement and stones were delivered to the building site by trucks and farm horses.

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CLASSIFICATION

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Prior to June 1951, no shipments of bricks arrived there. Source believed that bill boxes were being constructed. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the entire building site was inundated by a heavy cloud-burst after 23 June 1951. It was rumored that Rumanian troops also worked on similar projects in Varias (R 16/T 74) and other towns in the Panat area.

4. In the summer of 1951, Soviet trucks were daily observed driving through Besenova Noua, proceeding towards Sacalaz (R 16/T 31) and later returning. In the summer of 1950, source learned that a Soviet tent camp, covering several kilometers, was located north of Sacalaz along a small river. Prior to June 1951, the noise of the firing of tank guns, rocket launchers, and other weapons was heard day and night in the Besenova Noua area. According to local residents, a permanent Soviet troop training ground was located between Sacalaz, Jecia Mica (R 16/T 72) and Carpinis (R 16/T 72). In the summer of 1950, a Soviet tank column once passed through the town of Besenova Noua. The tanks traveled through the town at a fairly high speed at 40-meter intervals for a period of about one hour and proceeded to the north. They then practiced in the open terrain until night.

5. In late August 1951, two west-bound troop transports were observed at the Ciulnita (R 43/44/D 63) railroad station. The trains consisted mainly of boxcars, through the open doors of which source saw Rumanian soldiers and boxes. There were four or five flatcars, each mounting two camouflaged light AA guns, at the end of the trains.

6. Prior to July 1950, source observed villas and large multi-story apartment houses serving as billets, in the northeastern sector of the city, on either side of Bulv. Eroii-Dela Stalingrad leading from the center of the city to the former Noumarkt. Soviet soldiers and officers were billeted there.

[REDACTED] the officers' dependents also lived in the billets. Heavy traffic of Soviet troops and Soviet motor vehicles was observed in the street. Until mid-September 1951, [REDACTED] unit bivouacked in the Jaghdald Forest. It was not determined whether the unit consisted of Soviet or Rumanian troops.

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7. Until mid-September 1951, a Rumanian unit of about 200 men, which had arrived in May 1951, was stationed at Besenova Noua. The soldiers wore khaki uniforms, garrison caps and boots. Their branch of service was not identified. The troops were billeted in the school and in private houses. In mid-June 1951, more Rumanian soldiers arrived in the town on trucks, to help with the harvest. No details were known concerning these troops.

8. [REDACTED] in October 1951, an old AT given four German (R 16/T 74), which had been filled in after the war, was reconstructed.

9. Prior to 7 July 1951, there was a Rumanian unit of troops wearing black epaulets, with an estimated strength of one battalion, in Comatic (T 7/T 54). The troops, who arrived on 14 June 1951, were billeted in two schools and in a number of requisitioned private houses. [REDACTED] a captain was the ranking officer. The total number of officers was estimated at about 10. The equipment of the troops included rifles, submachine guns and machine guns. The soldiers were loitering in the streets. No training activity was observed.

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10. The majority of the families affected by the resettlement in June 1951 were selected because they were considered members of the bourgeois class or had relatives who had served with the SS Armed Forces. At least one third of the persons involved were Rumanians and the rest were ethnic Germans. The towns affected by the resettlement were not completely evacuated. Numerous Rumanians and ethnic Germans remained in all towns involved. The houses vacated were occupied by Rumanians, including newcomers from the Pitesti (R 33/34/D 79) area. Mail communication with the resettled families had already been established.

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11. The Romanian Militia wore uniforms of blue fabric cut like the Soviet uniform, including blouses which buttoned to the neck, long trousers, round flat service caps with red cap bands and red-star-with-hammer-and-sickle emblems, wide epaulets with red stripes and stars, and rectangular red collar patches, without numbers or letters, on the blouses and overcoats.

25X1A * [] Comment. The former Artillery and Cavalry Barracks are located at the junction of the Timisoara-Arad and Timisoara-Bannicoleana roads. A previous report by another source stated that the installations were occupied, in April 1951, by 1,200 to 1,500 tank troops. There were from 60 to 100 light and heavy tanks in parking lots. According to this previous report the former Koenig Ferdinand Kaserne was occupied by Soviet troops, who may belong to the tank units in the Artillery and Cavalry Barracks. See

25X1A [] The former Romanian cadet school, which was to be torn down but which still quartered a limited number of Soviet troops in April 1951, was located west of the Koenig Ferdinand Kaserne. At the same time, several houses around this school were occupied by 500 to 600 Soviet AA artillerymen. The main headquarters of the Romanian security service is located in a villa east of the Koenig Ferdinand Kaserne. In the fall of 1949, the Siebenbuerger Kaserne was still occupied by Soviet units. []

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25X1A [] The Jagdwald Forest, northeast of the city, is believed to serve as the training ground of the Timisoara post.

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